## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE DIVISION DOCKET NO. 1:17-cv-43-MOC

KEVA BATES,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
Vs.	)	ORDER
NANCY A. BERRYHILL, Acting Commissioner of Social Security,	) ) )	
Defendant.	)	

**THIS MATTER** is before the court on plaintiff's Petition for Attorney Fees Under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2414. The Court enters the following Order, pursuant to its authority to award fees to a prevailing party, other than the United States, incurred by that party in a civil action against the United States under the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA"), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A). The Court notes that the parties have agreed on the requested fee. Having considered this motion, the Court enters the following Order.

## **ORDER**

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that plaintiff's Petition for Attorney Fees Under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2414 (#21) is **GRANTED** and plaintiff is hereby awarded attorney's fees in the amount of \$9,500.00, in full satisfaction of any and all attorney's fee claims plaintiff may have in this case under the EAJA, as well as \$421.66 in costs from the Judgment Fund by the U.S. Department of Treasury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2412(a)(1).

Pursuant to the United States Supreme Court's ruling in <u>Astrue v. Ratliff</u>, 130 S. Ct. 2521 (2010), these attorney's fees are payable to plaintiff as the prevailing party, and are subject to

offset through the Treasury Department's Offset Program to satisfy any pre-existing debt plaintiff may owe to the government. If, subsequent to the entry of the Court's EAJA Order, the Commissioner determines that Plaintiff owes no debt to the government that would subject this award of attorney fees to offset, the Commissioner may honor plaintiff's signed assignment of EAJA fees providing for payment of the subject fees to plaintiff's counsel, rather than to plaintiff. If, however, the Commissioner discovers that plaintiff owes the government any debt subject to offset, the Commissioner shall pay any attorney fees remaining after such offset to plaintiff, rather than to counsel.

Signed: August 23, 2018

Max O. Cogburn J.

United States District Judge

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